

Some Publications of the Physiological Department of the University of California, dealing with the action of Purgatives and Diuretics.

These papers are mostly from the pen of J. B. MacCallum, and give the results of the work he has been carrying on for the last two years on the action of purgatives. The main points relating to the action of saline purges which are brought out by these papers are as follows: That the saline purges do not produce purgation by their direct action on the wall of the intestine alone, as was formerly supposed, but that they also act when introduced into the circulation by the subcutaneous route. That the purgation is produced partly by increased peristalsis, and partly by an increased secretion from the cells of the mucosa. That this is a true secretion and not a mere abstraction of fluid from the blood is shown by the fact that it occurs in segments of intestine removed from the body, where a circulatory origin for the fluid is excluded. This action of the saline cathartics (barium, magnesium, and sodium salts) can be counteracted by calcium chloride, a fact which may be of practical value in the treatment of certain forms of diarrhea. The effect of a neutral solution of cascara is in the main similar to the action of the saline purges. It produces an increase in the peristalsis and also an increased secretion of the intestinal juices, though this latter is not so marked as after the use of the saline purges. As far as the saline diuretics are concerned, MacCallum's results show that they act very much as the saline purges. The sodium, potassium, and barium salts cause an increased flow of urine, while the calcium salts inhibit diuresis. The common factor underlying the cathartic and diuretic action of these saline substances is their stimulating effect on muscle tissue of the involuntary variety, and their power of stimulating glandular secretion. These researches certainly greatly increase our knowledge of the action of these substances, and should lead to their more rational use as therapeutic agents. G. B.

The Japanese Floral Calendar.—By ERNEST W. CLEMENT. Published by the Open Court Publishing Company, Chicago.

"The Japanese are a nature-loving people and frequently give expression to their feelings by taking a holiday simply for flower viewing. At the proper season, the entire nation, so to speak, takes a day off and turns out on a big picnic, to see the plum blossoms, or the cherry blossoms, or the maples, or the chrysanthemums." The idea is a quaintly pretty one and the present little volume, profusely illustrated, shows a side of the Japanese character that is, in its charming romance, exactly the opposite of the intensely practical side shown in the conduct of the present war.

My Little Book of Prayer.—By MURIEL STONE. Published by the Open Court Publishing Company, Chicago.

This is a charming little volume containing much food for careful thought and not a little good common sense. "I will not covet the gift that is yours, but will pray that mine own be revealed. I will not gaze with envious eyes while you mould the pliant clay, but I will take up mallet and chisel and go to work myself." And again: "I longed for opportunity to do my work, for conditions that would foster and advance, and just to prove the earnestness of my desire, that I could do the work were these things mine, I set about and did it while I pined."

The Napoleon Myth.—By HENRY RIDGELY EVANS. Published by the Open Court Publishing Company, Chicago.

This is a rather curious volume dealing with the growth and development of the mythological element attaching to any prominent character. The preface is by Dr. Paul Carus and the essays of Mr. Evans are preceded by a reprint of the now very rare

and almost forgotten work of Pérès, "The Grand Erratum", a satire in which the non-existence of Napoleon is demonstrated.

Other Publications Received.

Aseptic Technic of Abdominal Surgery with the Topographical and Visceral Anatomy of Male and Female Abdomen.—By H. O. WALKER, Detroit.

Annual Report of the Surgeon-General of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service of the United States for the year ending Fiscal Year 1904.

A Method for Inoculating Animals with Precise Amounts.—By M. J. ROSENAU. Bul. 19, Public Health and Marine Hospital Service.

Transactions of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland. One Hundred and Sixth Annual Session; April, 1904.

Fourth Annual Report of the New York State Hospital for the Care of Crippled and Deformed Children.

Plastic Operations for Resection of the Nasal Septum and Excision of Septal Spurs.—By GEORGE H. POWERS.

Physician's Pocket Account Book.—By J. J. TAYLOR, M. D. Published by the Medical Council, Philadelphia.

Transactions of the Indiana State Medical Association. Fifty-Fifth Annual Session; 1904.

The Chemical Composition of Apples and Cider. Bul. 88 of the Department of Agriculture.

History of Pediatrics and Its Relation to Other Sciences and Arts.—By A. JACOBEL.

Transactions of The Medical Association of Georgia. Fifty-Fifth Annual Session; 1904.

New Organization Work in Indiana.—By J. N. McCORMACK.

Bitemporal Hemianopsia.—By F. B. TIFFANY, Kansas City, Mo.

Immunity from Consumption.—By CYRUS L. TOPLIFF.

Leprosy in North America.—By ISADORE DYER.

NEW JERSEY'S APPROVAL.

Dr. Jones, instead of receiving the support and encouragement, which his manly and unselfish course deserves, seems to get abuse from some, misrepresentation from others, and the cold shoulder from all.

For our part, we never could understand how medical men, or any other men, could reconcile it with their consciences to persistently say one thing and do another.

Medical societies with great particularity will lay down elaborate rules of conduct, which they are pleased to call ethical, and then wink at the disregard of these same high-sounding laws by their publication committees and advertising agents.

One would think that no medical man, except Dr. Jones, was ever born with a sense of humor; otherwise, rich and powerful medical societies would not make themselves ridiculous and stultify themselves for gain. While calling aloud to the whole world that they are spotlessly pure and exquisitely ethical, some of them have their hands sunk deep in the mire and their pockets lined with the money that is the price of their shame and the evidence of their duplicity.

We would fain believe that much of this is due to carelessness and the unbusinesslike habits of medical men. But that excuse constantly grows more diaphanous.

The young ostrich thinks himself hidden when his head is in the sand, and our "ethical" medical writers and publishers esteem the flagrancy of their conduct covered up when they can point to the undeniable fact that other journals are equally guilty.

What folly! What hypocrisy! Like the Pharisees of old, they make tithe of mint and cummin and neglect the weightier matters of the law.—*Journal of the Med. Soc. of New Jersey.*